



# CrossWord

THE NEWSLETTER OF NORCROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 2007

Norcross, Georgia

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## Matt's Musings

I have been in class the last couple of weeks, sitting at the feet of one of the true masters, Barbara Brown Taylor. Dr. Taylor is well published, and in the theological circles is a little bit of a celebrity. And the great thing is that I have been sitting with 16 other pastors who are each individually gifted and talented. It has been a wonderful experience.

It is also an experience that is marked by some sadness and regret. This is my last class in the program. I will complete an Independent Study over the next month, and work on gathering data (more on this below,

this is where you come in) to complete my dissertation and graduate next May. And I will miss the students with whom I have shared these classes. I will miss the practice of being at the seminary and studying under some of the biggest names in the English speaking world, such as Barbara Brown Taylor, Stan Saunders, Anna Carter Florence and Walter Brueggemann. I will miss it all.

But all of that is tempered with the excitement I have for my final project. I am taking a model of mission that was developed by a professor named Craig Van Gelder and finding out how it will work in our context, at our time, at Norcross Presbyterian Church. This is going to be exciting, and pivotal. Beginning in late August, we are going to have sermons about what the church is according to Paul from his letter to the Philippians. Then, on Wednesday nights, instead of Bible Study, we will have discussion. This discussion will be partly about the sermon, but mostly about who we are, who we want to be, what is our purpose, what is our mission, what do we need to do to get to where we feel the call of the Holy Spirit leading us.

"But Matt, I don't come to the Wednesday night Bible Study?"

Well, you don't have to have come in the past to start now. Also, I'm not asking you to come from now until an unforeseeable future, just 6 weeks. 6 weeks to discuss the future and what we think we can do and who we should be.

"But Matt, I don't come to Wednesday night Bible Study because I can't."

If your issue is childcare, we will have childcare. If your issue is something else, and you want to participate (and understand that I want everyone who wants to give input to have a way to give input) then we will either come up with another time, or I will give you a notebook with questions for you to answer, and you can do it on your own.

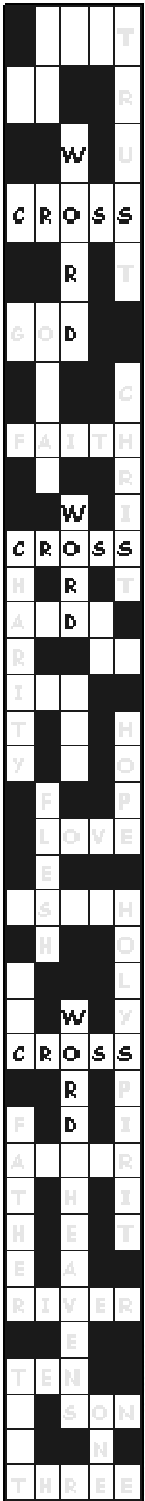
"But Matt, I'm scared."

Me too. And that is how I know that it will be such a good and valuable time. Please know that I will not be cramming any preconceived ideas or agendas down the church's throat. I think our definition of who we are and who we can become will be much stronger if we all listen to the Holy Spirit together, and come up with the answers and action plan together.

I'm looking forward to this. I hope you will join in, and that Wednesday night dinner teams will have to cook extra to make room for all the people who can't make a long term commitment to Wednesday night, but who can see the end at 6 weeks away, and can do that short term sprint. Come one, come all.

As I am always,  
Yours in Christ,

*Matt*



NORCROSS  
Presbyterian Church



## *Vacation Bible School*

*Sunday, July 15- Thursday, July 19th*

*6:00 Dinner for kids and families*

*6:30-8:30 VBS Program*

**This year's VBS is called "Son Force Kids ". The children will be "Special Agents". We will be studying the Old Testament stories about Moses, Esther, Daniel, Jeremiah and Joshua. Volunteers are needed to cover a variety of activities.**

**If you are interested in helping with VBS or Summer Sunday School, please contact Amanda Helmstetter or Linda Smith, this year's VBS directors.**

*Look for registration forms in the narthex or online at  
[www.norcrossprebyterian.org](http://www.norcrossprebyterian.org)*

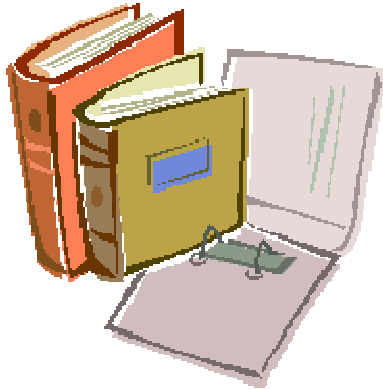
Norcross Cooperative Ministry

NCM

The Greg Ellis Center

CARING FOR THE  
COMMUNITY

## School Supplies Needed!



*Join the NPC SONFORCE KIDS  
as the VBS Special Agents  
accept the Mission  
to collect school supplies for  
Norcross Cooperative Ministry  
to distribute to  
children in need in local schools*

Together we can make an investment in the future of  
the Norcross community!

### ***MOST NEEDED:***

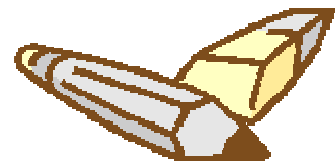
- Back Pack Style Book Bags
- Hard Cover Notebooks (1"-2" 3 ring binders)
- Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper
- Wide-Ruled Spiral Notebooks
- Pens
- Pocket Folders with Brads
- Composition Books

### ***Also Needed:***

- Rulers
- 8 Count Bold Color Markers with Wide Tips
- Two Pocket Folders with Brads
- Graph Paper
- TI-35 or Higher Calculators
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Plastic Bottles of Elmer's Glue
- Subject Dividers
- Scissors (Colored Plastic for Elementary School Age Youth)

### **Gift Cards Also Welcomed:**

- Target, Wal-Mart, Office Depot, Office Max and Staples
- Checks may also be made out to NPC, with a memo of 'VBS mission project' or 'school supplies'



## ***10 Minutes Could Save Your Life***

**A preventive healthcare ultrasound screening will be held at Norcross Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 26th, 9:00am –5:00pm.**

On that day, **Life Line Screening, a Mobile Health Screening Service**, will be present to scan the carotid artery in the neck for plaque build up (which can lead to a stroke) and the arteries in the legs for Peripheral Arterial Disease, which is linked to heart disease. A third test for aneurysms in the aortic vessel in the abdomen will also be available. Life Line Screening will also offer bone density screening for women and men to test for risk of osteoporosis.

**This is a preventative program, and with early detection, these problems can be treated. These tests are non-invasive, completely painless, and take about ten minutes or less each. The results are sent directly to you.**

The vascular tests are offered for \$45 each or at a package price of \$109.

The osteoporosis screening is \$35,

or for the Complete Wellness Package—all 4 tests—\$129.

Blood work will also be available for conditions such as diabetes at an add on price of \$50 and you will have results that day.

**Screenings are recommended for ages 40+ and pre-registration is a must.**

**Space is limited!**

**Please schedule early—call 1-800-324-1851 for your appointment.**

**Questions? Please call Khristel McGill at 678-462-3702.**

Lionheart Theatre Company  
Presents:

# Tom Sawyer

**A musical adaptation of the beloved Mark Twain classic  
by Mary Donnelly and George L.O. Strid**

***Ideal for the whole family.***

*All the famous adventures are here! Actors of all ages tell the tale in song and dance.*

***Performance Schedule:***

Thursday July 19th at 11am and 2pm  
Friday July 20th at 2pm  
Saturday July 21st at 2pm and 7:30pm

***Ticket prices:***

\$10 for Adults, \$5 for kids under 10

*Special FREE performance of musical numbers  
Friday July 20th at 7:30pm  
Thrasher Park in Downtown Norcross*

**Make Reservations Now!**

[www.lionhearttheatre.org](http://www.lionhearttheatre.org)

[Lionheart30093@yahoo.com](mailto:Lionheart30093@yahoo.com)

770-806-0935

**Norcross Community & Cultural Arts Center  
10 Britt Road, Norcross, GA 30071  
(up the hill from City Hall)**

**BEST WISHES TO OUR  
JULY  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**



- 2 Audrey Bernardo
- 8 Jessie Brown
- 9 Stan Moses
- 12 Jason Bernardo
- 12 Carol MacGregor
- 16 Bob Norman
- 20 Nora Correa
- 24 German Correa
- 25 Heather Reilley
- 27 Anne Fuller
- 30 Heather Peterson